the people's instinct. I know there is such a thing as that. There is generally a conflict between the people's instinct and the opinion of experts, and it is to reconcile these two things that Conferences are generally held—Conferences of experts and of people interested in the matters discussed and also of people who possess practical experience of such matters. It is becoming more and more the fashion of all Governments to consult non-official opinion on important matters. I think that is the only possible way by which such reconciliation can be effected, and this Government are doing all that they can in that direction. Another observation you have made is that it is not good policy to take away the initiative from the people in the matter of starting, financing, and developing industries. I quite agree with you there and I believe that that is the policy that I have sought to lay down in my opening speech. In fact, the Government can do much more by way of developing industries and organising them by leaving the initiative of the people untouched and by giving the people such assistance as is necessary to ensure stability to their enterprises and by giving them expert advice and financial assistance as far as possible. The Government do not want to spoon-feed the people. They do want people to stand on their own legs. Whatever encouragement Government can give them will be given, as I have already said, very willingly.

V. PUBLIC WORKS.

53. Grievances of the owners of water-logged paddy fields in the Colachel pakuthi with certain suggestions for their removal, with special reference to the deepening of the Pamburi Voikal.

Mr. T.Raman Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Colachel) represented about the sufferings of the owners of certain fields in the Colachel pakuthi which were submerged under water owing to the silting up of the bed of the Pamburi Voikal due to the high sill level of a bridge across it, and said that though on account of the submergence there were no facilities for raising of crops, Government had not only refused to grant remissions, but had imposed water cess in addition. The Member suggested the following remedial measures :—

(1) the reconstruction of the above bridge with the foundation laid on a lower level ;

(2) provision of cross bars from the bridge to the Neyyur Voikal junction and the complete clearance of the deposit of sand and silt from the Voikal ;

(3) cutting a drainage channel from south to north to the east of the Mulagumood-Colachel road to divert the water now draining into the Chathankara *Ela* through a number of culverts and causing water-logging ;

(4) cutting a drainage *Kal* quite close to the eastern and western tanks within the Chathankara *Ela*, so as to remove the water logging in that *Ela* also caused by the Pamburi Voikal running at a higher level.

The Member also pointed out the injury caused to the salt factories by the submergence of the fields and stated that, if the remedial measures suggested by him were carried out, the factories would be improved.

Dewan's reply,—The P. W. D. are investigating this question. Action will be taken after the investigation is over.

54. The urgent need for irrigational facilities for the western pakuthies of the Eraniel taluk, uncommanded by the Kodayar channels.

Mr. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel Taluk) said that the subject had been repeatedly pressed on the attention of Government and had not received due consideration at their hands. He submitted that, in reference to their prayer that a branch channel should be cut and made available for irrigation in the western pakuthies of Eraniel taluk, Government were of opinion that further extension could not be made in the present Kodayar works, unless the existing channels were properly supplied with water. Later on, respresentations were made for the restoration of tanks that had been neglected and had fallen into disuse. As a result of those representations, Government ordered an investigation into the condition of those

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